

properly preserved. The next third seized utensils for cooking with most grave and serious faces; and in taking them away did it with a professional flourish, seemingly ambitious to make as much noise as possible, as if they had an extensive ladder, and were fully acquainted with its value, and in fact, wished everybody else to be acquainted with it also. The remaining

third take the axes, go after wood and build fires, and, as if determined not to have their duty considered insignificant compared with that of the others, they chop and lug their burthens about, lay their wood ready for kindling in a peculiar solemn and scientific manner, and after having done so, (having reference all the time to the line, for they even "dress" the fires,) they light a match, and with the help of dry leaves and grass soon get the flames going.

down—and with distended cheeks blowing, tinted rosy condition, like so many animated bells—they cast serious and significant glances, those at work with the tents and mess pans, much as to say: "Well if it wasn't for us you *would* you fellows do for a supper, any how!"

All these duties are done at once; and with each of the patient girls into active operation, the three various but important branches of

there is an unending confusion on at the same time there is no little noise and excitement in camp. The click-click-click! of a hundred hatches driving tent pins, and a hundred cutting wood is heard; and mingled with it, the rattle of divers pots, kettles and pans; and many apparently striving to out-do all others in its culinary din, as if more noise not only quickened better supper, but more of it. Then to added to all this, is the braying of donkeys and

neighing of horses. They, too, are in great commotion from their delight at getting rid of their burthens, and—scores of them at a time—may be seen rolling, and kicking up their heels in the joy at their liberty. Here and there an old carter paises a horse, or donkey, who has had much experience, and gained therefrom a great quantity of real hard horse sense, goes quietly feeding as soon as he is picketed. Ever, a

Supper being over, the "stable call" is sounded.

ed, when all the animals are led into the square and again picketed, though with much less care than to their lariattees, as the ground is more limited. A chain of sentinels is thrown around the square and now the encampment is completed for the night. So this beautiful spot of ground, which but one hour ago was so still, so retired; so almost shrinking away from view among those old trees with its modest loveliness, is now covered with a little stir, with its stirrups, its snuckles, its no-

and bustle. And, although small, it is a city which would be extremely hazardous to beleaguer. It is a perfect little fortress of itself. Those who attempt to cover a living wall which few would care about battering much less to mount.

At nine o'clock in the evening "tattoo" is blown, when each company parades under arms in front of its own tent, and is inspected by the officer. This inspection is one of form and ceremony, and is a most interesting sight.

the object being to see that every man has arms and equipments on; for immediately after he retires, and if an alarm is given in the night, or an attack made, he can leap from his blanket and place his hand upon his weapon at once. Fifteen minutes more and the bugles sound "put out the lights" when in an instant everything is not only as dark, but as quiet as the grave. No doubt, reader, you have been in many a place so still as almost to hear your

thing—but all that is nothing to the stillness of a military camp in the night. I can hardly think of anything more awful and sublime—for it is more sublime than that profound silence that reigns there then. A moment since, as it were, a man were passing to and fro; and knots of the men were sitting around the camp fires, the light striking here and there upon their faces as they formed, while all the rest of their figures would be in deep shadow. In other of the groups a de-

young soldiers would be gathered around some old fire-  
old fire-dragon, listening to his long yarns of Indian  
breadth, escape, buffalo chase, campaigns to the  
mountains, and other wonderful events of his  
service. In others, some fine voice would be  
singing the burden of a light ballad, or patriotic  
song, and scores of men would join in the chorus;  
rousing, waking the echoes again, with their  
bursts of melody:— Besides, beneath all this  
burlesque, and the other things, there was a

that continued and confused hum of voices, incident to all great bodies of men whose conversation had been for a long time restrained, and just set at liberty. With these sounds, too, were mingled the noises of the various employments of the men preparing the morrow's breakfast, with divers coffee mills in full operation. Yet, not a man can be seen, save it be by the distant sentinels, nearly obscured by the murky shadows; and not a sound can be heard save

perhaps the whoop of some far off owl, as it comes borne upon the faint breeze of night, the almost human scream of the wolf, as it ventures occasionally near the encampment. It is the repose of the multitude around you that makes the profound solitude, and the contrast from the recent bustle which causes the awful stillness. You are expecting some audible revelation of life from the hundreds of human beings, who are with you, as with you, and yet you are alone.

Such is the process of enmeshing every night—the only variation being in the squadrons—they alternate in position, as do the different troops composing the same squadron. This is done that all may fare exactly alike as to convenience to wood and water. The stream upon

which this encampment is located is very clean flowing over a lime-rock bed, and beautifully fringed along its banks with groves of oak, willow, hickory, hackberry and elm. The commanding officer is of the impression that it is a branch of the Kansas—but probably such is hardly the fact—if being, in the opinion of many, a tributary of the Missouri, as I have before described. Our course to day has been, north-west, and we have marched out, and are now

A census of Musasani has recently been taken which shows a population of about 530,000, being an increase of over 100,000 since 1942. This is almost incredible.

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